

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A graphical indicator for adjusting a value of a parameter to a target value
2 comprising:
3 target value indicia that represents a target value of the parameter; and
4 measured value indicia that represents a measured value of the parameter,
5 wherein a change in a measured value of said parameter relative to said target value is
6 represented by a first corresponding amount of movement of the measured value indicia
7 relative to the target value indicia when said measured value is within a first span of
8 parameter values, and a second corresponding amount of movement of the measured value
9 indicia relative to the target value indicia when said measured value is within a second span
10 of parameter values, the second corresponding amount of movement being different than the
11 first corresponding amount of movement.

1 2. The graphical indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said first span of
2 parameter values is closer to said target value than said second span of parameter values, and
3 wherein said first corresponding amount of movement is greater than said second
4 corresponding amount of movement.

1 3. The graphical indicator according to Claim 1, wherein said graphical indicator
2 further includes measurement span indicia that represents a span of parameter values capable
3 of being represented by the graphical indicator, and wherein said measurement span indicia
4 includes a first measurement span indicia portion in which an amount of change in the
5 measured value of said parameter relative to said target value is represented by said first
6 corresponding amount of movement, and a second measurement span indicia portion in

7 which the amount of change in the measured value of said parameter relative to said target
8 value is represented by said second corresponding amount of movement.

1 4. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, wherein said first corresponding
2 amount of movement is greater than said second corresponding amount of movement.

1 5. The graphical indicator according to Claim 4, wherein said first measurement
2 span indicia portion is closer to said target value indicia than said second measurement span
3 indicia portion.

1 6. The graphical indicator according to Claim 5, wherein said first measurement
2 span indicia portion comprises a linear measurement span indicia portion in which the first
3 corresponding amount of movement is the same throughout the first measurement span
4 indicia portion, and said second measurement span indicia portion comprises a non-linear
5 measurement span indicia portion in which the second corresponding amount of movement
6 differs at different locations in the second measurement span indicia portion.

1 7. The graphical indicator according to Claim 6, wherein said non-linear
2 measurement span indicia portion comprises a plurality of segments, and wherein the second
3 corresponding amount of movement comprises a different second corresponding amount of
4 movement in each segment.

1 8. The graphical indicator according to Claim 7, wherein the second
2 corresponding amount of movement in said segments decreases as a function of the extent to
3 which a span of measured parameter values represented by a segment is farther from the
4 target value.

1 9. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, wherein said target value indicia
2 is located in the center of said first measurement span indicia portion.

1 10. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, wherein said measurement span
2 indicia comprises a rectangular-shaped area on a display, and wherein said target value
3 indicia comprises at least one of a line representing a discrete target value or a region
4 representing a range of acceptable target values

1 11. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, and further including boundary
2 demarcation indicia to separate the first measurement span indicia portion and the second
3 measurement span indicia portion.

1 12. The graphical indicator according to Claim 11, wherein said boundary
2 demarcation indicia comprises lines in said measurement span indicia.

1 13. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, wherein said measurement span
2 indicia includes a measurement span indicia section representing parameter values less than
3 said target value, and a measurement span indicia section representing parameter values more
4 than said target value.

1 14. The graphical indicator according to Claim 3, and further including a legend
2 for providing information regarding the graphical indicator.

1 15. A graphical indicator for adjusting a value of a parameter to a target value
2 comprising:

3 measurement span indicia that represents a span of parameter values capable of being
4 represented by the graphical indicator;
5 target value indicia that represents the target value of the parameter;
6 measured value indicia that represents a measured value of the parameter,
7 wherein an amount of change in the measured value of the parameter relative to the
8 target value of the parameter is represented by a corresponding amount of movement of the
9 measured value indicia relative to the target value indicia; and
10 indicia for dividing the measurement span indicia into a linear measurement span
11 indicia portion in which the amount of change in the measured value of the parameter is
12 represented by the same corresponding first amount of movement of the measured value
13 indicia throughout the linear measurement span indicia portion, and a non-linear
14 measurement span indicia portion in which the amount of change in the measured value of
15 the parameter is represented by different corresponding second amounts of movement of the
16 measured value indicia in different portions of the non-linear measurement span indicia
17 portion.

1 16. The graphical indicator according to Claim 15, wherein said linear
2 measurement span indicia portion is closer to said target value indicia than said non-linear
3 measurement span indicia portion.

1 17. The graphical indicator according to Claim 16, wherein said corresponding
2 first amount of movement of said measured value indicia is larger than said corresponding
3 second amounts of movement.

1 18. The graphical indicator according to Claim 17, wherein said corresponding
2 second amounts of movement decrease as a function of the amount by which said measured
3 value indicia differs from said target value indicia.

1 19. The graphical indicator according to Claim 15, wherein said measurement
2 span indicia includes a measurement span indicia section representing parameter values less
3 than said target value, and a measurement span indicia section representing parameter values
4 more than said target value.

1 20. The graphical indicator according to Claim 19, wherein said target value
2 indicia is located in the center of said linear measurement span indicia portion.

1 21. The graphical indicator according to Claim 15, wherein said target value
2 indicia comprises at least one of a line representing a discrete target value or a region
3 representing a range of acceptable target values.

1 22. A graphical indicator for adjusting a value of a parameter to a target value
2 comprising:
3 target value indicia that represents a target value of the parameter; and
4 measured value indicia that represents a measured value of the parameter,
5 wherein a change in a measured value of said parameter relative to said target value is
6 represented by a corresponding amount of movement of the measured value indicia relative
7 to said target value indicia, and wherein the sensitivity of the amount of movement of the
8 measured value indicia relative to the target value indicia changes as a function of the

9 proximity of the measured value of the parameter relative to said target value of the
10 parameter.

1 23. The graphical indicator according to Claim 22, wherein said sensitivity
2 increases as the measured value of the parameter is closer to said target value.

1 24. A graphical indicator for adjusting a value of a parameter to a target value
2 comprising:

3 target value indicia that represents a target value of the parameter; and
4 measured value indicia that represents a measured value of the parameter, wherein
5 said graphical indicator further includes a region of increased sensitivity in which a change in
6 a measured value of said parameter relative to said target value is represented by a
7 corresponding amount of movement of the measured value indicia relative to the target value
8 indicia that is greater than a corresponding amount of movement of the measured value
9 indicia relative to the target value indicia when said target value indicia is outside the region
10 of increased sensitivity.

1 25. The graphical indicator according to Claim 24, wherein said target value
2 indicia is settable by a user to different values, and wherein said region of increased
3 sensitivity moves on said graphical display when said target value indicia is set to a different
4 value

1 26. The graphical indicator according to Claim 25 wherein said target value
2 indicia is in the center of said region of increased sensitivity.